

truck Tuesday morning in front of the Fort Mitchell Avenue home where she lived for 52 years. She was 83. "She loved making people feel good," said her son John Middleton, Kenton Circuit Court Clerk. "I think that's what's going to be the loss, not just for us, but for the whole northern Kentucky community."

It was raining Tuesday morning about 10:20 a.m. when Mary Middleton apparently took a bag of garbage out to a Bavarian garbage truck on her street. Police were still investigating how the accident occurred, but the truck hit Middleton in the street.

Emergency responders called for a medical helicopter but it was unable to respond because of the weather. Middleton died at the scene. The driver of the truck was taken to St. Elizabeth Hospital to be tested for drugs or alcohol, which is routine after a fatal accident involving a commercial truck, said Fort Mitchell Police Chief Jeff Eldridge.

The driver, John Boaz, has worked for the company for 15 years, said Bavarian spokesman Rick Bruggemann. "Our deepest condolences and prayers go out to the family," Bruggemann said. Boaz, who has an excellent safety record, was devastated, he said.

Accident reconstruction experts from Erlanger Police and the Boone County Sheriff's Office are helping Fort Mitchell investigate the accident.

Middleton's husband, former Kenton County Judge-Executive Clyde Middleton, was at home when his wife was hit. He called John Middleton at work and word quickly spread across northern Kentucky Republican circles. As Mary Middleton's body lay in the street covered by a sheet and shielded by yellow tarps, family and friends began gathering at the red brick home near the Fort Mitchell Country Club.

One of those friends, Shawn Baker, rushed to the home to be with the family.

"I admired Mary more than any person I know," said Baker, of Crestview Hills, who was in the Kenton County Republican Women's Club and several other groups with Middleton. "She had so much class. Mary was an organizer, a leader, and an inspiration to anyone who met her."

Though she was better known as a political wife, it was Mary who made the family's first foray into politics. In the late 1950s she ran for state representative at a time when the area elected men and Democrats, said family friend and Kenton County Republican activist Rick Robinson.

She then supported her husband through his two decades in the Kentucky Senate and more than seven years in Kenton County's top job before he resigned in 1998 after a controversy involving the awarding of a courthouse construction bid.

"She was the perfect political wife too, she pushed Dad to do the things and to be nice to people when maybe he didn't want to be nice," John Middleton said.

Mary Middleton grew up in Wisconsin but was adventurous and left to travel the world. After trying to see the world on \$10 a day, she ran out of money in France and had to telegraph her father for money, her son said.

She went to work for the YWCA, which sent her to work in Hawaii where she met Clyde, a Naval officer. She followed him to Japan and the couple married.

Eventually, Clyde Middleton ended up working for Procter & Gamble in Chicago. When he was transferred to Cincinnati, the Middletons settled in northern Kentucky.

"They got off the airplane and saw all the beautiful trees and said this is where we want to live," John Middleton said. "And northern Kentucky is a much better place because she was here."

In addition to the Salvation Army, she volunteered for the Red Cross, Church Women

United, Kentucky Symphony and at her church, Gloria Dei Lutheran. She was also active in the Covington Optimist Club, the Florence Woman's Club and Kenton County Republican Women's Club, which she founded 51 one years ago.

In 1981, she was honored by the Enquirer as a Woman of the Year. She was also a teacher at the McMillan Center Alternative School.

"She was everybody's mother," said Kenton County Sheriff Chuck Korzenborn, a Republican who counted Middleton as one of his first supporters when he ran for sheriff. "She was a person who had only one thing on her mind, what was good for the community and the people in it."

"Mary's fine, she's with her maker and with the Lord. She's fine, but the people down here are going to miss her very, very much."

On Monday, Mary Middleton drove a cancer patient for treatment at St. Elizabeth Hospital, something that she and her husband had done for years. On Tuesday, she was planning her regular visit to a nursing home, where she sat with friends and strangers alike.

"She was truly a humble servant," said Becky Sittason, whose grandmother Middleton was planning to visit. "She doesn't have to flaunt it or say 'here is who I helped.'"

Sittason, who has known Middleton since she was 6, only found out she volunteered as a bell ringer when she read it last year in the newspaper.

Of all the organizations she was involved in, the Salvation Army was special to Middleton, said both Baker and her son. She helped organize the charity's annual fashion show and would line up volunteers to ring the bell along with her.

"She would never ask anyone to do something that she wouldn't do herself," Baker said.

Middleton rang the bell for more than 20 years and recruited her entire family for shifts at local stores.

"It just makes your Christmas to know you've done a little something for other people," she told the Enquirer last year.

In addition to her husband and son John, of Edgewood, she is survived by her sons David, of Lexington; Richard, of Independence; daughter Ann Schmidt, of Orlando; and eight grandchildren.

"Each one of the children could say that they felt special," John Middleton said, "and they were her favorite; that's because she made you feel that way."

"She always went out of her way to do what's right and to make everybody feel the best about themselves," he said.

When she died Tuesday, there was a note on her desk she had just written welcoming a family that had recently moved onto the street.

"She didn't know who they were," her son said, "but she wanted to make them feel welcomed. People don't do that as much now days, but she did."

Funeral arrangements are pending with Linnemann Funeral Homes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING THE MINORITY LEADER

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to commend the minority leader for that beautiful tribute. I have been privileged to be on the floor several times when he has offered tributes to his constituents, and I always find them to be so beautifully written and delivered. I understand he writes them himself.

I was very touched by his memories of a special constituent. I wish him and all the people of Kentucky a great holiday season.

HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about the Homeland Security appropriations bill—one of the nine we approved this morning. I was proud to work with my ranking member, the Senator from Indiana, Mr. DAN COATS. I am very proud to work with the Senator from New Jersey, FRANK LAUTENBERG, who serves as honorary vice chair of the committee because of his seniority and expertise in this area. I wanted to put into the RECORD some facts about the bill.

This bill has been openly and publicly debated for almost 1 year. There are some very important components of the bill that I think are of great interest to the people we serve. First, the bill totals, for 2012, \$39.858 billion, slightly below \$40 billion. It is not one of the largest in our government, but it is neither the smallest. It is sort of in the midrange of departments, but it is a very important department—one just created, as you know, in the aftermath and the heartbreak of 9/11. It is a department that has had tremendous success in the 10 years but with a lot of growing pains. They had a lot of difficulty getting their feet underneath them and bringing in agencies from around the government to provide the frontline of defense against attacks to our homeland.

I commend Secretary Napolitano for the great work she has done in the last 2 years to strengthen this department, to make very tough decisions, which all our Administrators are having to make, about how to allocate resources and set priorities because we are reducing budgets. We are in the process of eliminating, trimming, and rescinding. That is very difficult because, frankly, almost everything we do on the Federal level is important to somebody, to some entity, to some State, to some business cluster or to some activity of the government. Despite the common refrain that there is a lot of waste, fraud, and abuse, the fact is, we have been shaving that, eliminating that substantially, over the last several years. Now we are down to the bone and muscle.

When you are defending a country, you need to have a lot of muscle. When you are defending a country, you have